

# HURRICANE WILMA

## TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA RECOVERY INFORMATION



NOVEMBER 2005 / UPDATE 1

CHECK THE TOWN'S WEB SITE FOR  
THE LATEST UPDATES:  
[www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov](http://www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov)

## BOIL WATER ORDER LIFTED

The **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** is dedicating all its resources and efforts to cleaning up the Town and restoring all municipal services in the wake of **Hurricane Wilma**. The Town is also hopeful all utility services will be fully restored as soon as possible.

### BOIL WATER ORDER LIFTED

The **Broward County Health Department** on Nov. 2 lifted the boil water order for Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. It is now safe to drink tap water without first boiling it.

### SWIMMING ADVISORY

The **Broward County Health Department** has also issued a cautionary advisory against swimming in the ocean. Residents are urged to stay out of the ocean until additional tests are performed by the Health Department to verify the safety of the water.

### POWER RESTORATION

As of Oct. 31st, **Florida Power & Light** reported it had restored electricity to 83 percent of the Town.

### TRASH COLLECTION & RECYCLING

**Waste Management** has resumed regular trash collection. Please place trash out on the curb on your regularly scheduled pickup day. Some customers may see delays in their regular pick-up because of road

obstructions due to downed wires and hurricane debris. Residents can bring their trash cans to the area of their street where Waste Management crews can pick them up and empty them. Please keep yard debris and vegetation separate from hurricane debris. You must also keep your garbage and bulk items separate from any hurricane-related debris.

### HURRICANE DEBRIS PICK-UP

Crews will make three full sweeps of the Town to pick-up hurricane debris. Please be patient. If you have questions, call Town Hall at **954-776-0576**.

### HOT MEALS FOR SENIORS

If you know of a homebound Senior Citizen in Town who needs a meal, call the **American Red Cross** or BSO (see key phone numbers on page 3).

### COMCAST CABLE

Comcast is working to restore cable service in Town as soon as possible. It has not issued a date as to when it expects service to be up and running again.

### FREE ICE AND WATER

Residents can pick-up free ice and water in the parking lot across from Town Hall on State Road A1A. To check availability, call Town Hall at **954-776-0576**.

## BSO DOUBLES STAFF

The **Broward Sheriff's Office** has more than doubled the number of personnel working in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea to handle crime and public safety issues in the wake of the damage caused by Hurricane Wilma. Instead of 11 police and non-sworn personnel working per 12-hour shift in the Town, there are now 24 BSO employees working per 12-hour shift. **BSO Chief Scott Gooding** said that will remain in effect until the Town returns to normal operations.

**Citizens On Patrol** volunteers, as well as **BSO Reserve Officers**, are also patrolling the Town's streets and providing needed information to BSO. Gooding said not all Town street lights are working, but

that efforts are underway to get them all operational as soon as possible. In some instances, generators will be used to power the intersections until permanent repairs can be made. He cautioned all Town drivers to exercise extreme caution at all intersections without working street lights. He said drivers should treat those intersections as four-way stops. Gooding asked drivers to be patient, as it will take time for FP&L & the Town to get all street lights in our community working properly. Gooding also advised residents to be wary of door-to-door contractors offering to clean-up your yard or fix your home. Do not pay a contractor until after the job is completed.

# OPERATION BLUE ROOF

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**Operation Blue Roof** provides blue plastic tarps to cover roofs damaged by Hurricane Wilma. The tarp is installed at no cost to the homeowner. Only primary residences with sloped, shingled roofs are eligible to receive a blue roof. Structures with greater than 50 percent structural damage are not eligible for a tarp. A Blue Roof **application center** is open at **Holiday Park** in Fort Lauderdale (800 N. Federal Highway) on **Monday** from **10 AM** to **6 PM** and **Tuesday** from **8**

**AM** to **5 PM**. There are also Blue Roof application centers at the following locations in Broward:

- The old K-Mart in Deerfield Beach at the northeast corner of Hillsboro Boulevard and Powerline (8 AM to 5 PM).
- The Mitchell-More Center in Pompano Beach (901 NW 10th St.). For info about other Operation Blue Roof locations, call **1-888-766-3258**. You can also visit the following Web site: **www.saj.usace.army.mil**.

# INDIVIDUAL FEMA ASSISTANCE

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Individual Town residents, families and business owners may be eligible for disaster relief from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** due to Hurricane Wilma. FEMA offers numerous programs that provide assistance for hurricane-related expenses.

To see if you qualify for disaster assistance, you must first register with FEMA. Citizens are urged to call **1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 1-800-462-7585)**.

You can also complete an application online at this Web

site address: **www.fema.gov**.

When registering for disaster assistance, please have the following information available:

- Social Security Number
- Private insurance info, if available.
- Address and zip code of the damaged property
- Directions to the damaged home or property.
- A daytime telephone number.

# PERMIT WAIVERS

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The Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea contracts with **Broward County** for **Building Department** services. For residents who need a permit to make emergency repairs to their home, call Broward County at **954-831-4017**. If the work needed to be done is not major, the

County may let homeowners proceed with the work and allow them to get the needed building permit afterwards. For normal permit applications, drop by the Town Hall annex just north of **Jarvis Hall** between **9 AM** and **1 PM Monday** through **Friday**.

# POWER RESTORATION

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**Florida Power & Light** said its electrical infrastructure sustained some of the most serious damage in the eastern sections of Broward County. Crews continue to work around the clock making repairs on main electrical feeders and substations. FP&L estimates that power should be restored to the majority of customers in Broward County by mid-November. All FP&L customers in Broward should

have power restored by Nov. 22 at the latest.

If you see a downed power line, do not touch it or attempt to move it. Residents should exercise extreme caution when moving any trees, branches and debris — as they may be covering downed power lines.

**Lines that were dead may become live as power is restored.** Downed power lines should be reported immediately to FPL at **1-800-4-OUTAGE**.

# TOWN COMMISSION

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**Mayor Oliver Parker**

**Vice Mayor Ed Kennedy**

**Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Clark**

**Commissioner David Wessels**

**Commissioner John Yanni**

To contact a Town Commissioner about an issue related to Hurricane Wilma, call Town Hall at 954-776-0576. The Town Commission is scheduled to meet next on **Tuesday, Nov. 8** at **7 PM** in **Jarvis Hall**. The pre-conference agenda meeting starts at 6 PM. For Town updates on Hurricane Wilma, check the Town's Web site at **www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov**.

# RESIDENT SAFETY TIPS

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## ROOF REPAIRS

- A number of Town residents sustained injuries while working on their roofs repairing damage. Please be mindful of wind conditions and take all precautions.

## WATER

- Report water main breaks to Town Hall at **954-776-0576**.

- Please conserve water. Do not wash cars or water lawns.

## FUEL

- Condominium buildings needing diesel fuel for building generators should consider contacting marine fuel suppliers. You may want to check the Yellow Pages for local suppliers.

## POWER LINES

- Report downed power lines immediately to FPL at **800-4-OUTAGE**. Assumed any downed wire is live!

## INTERSECTIONS

- Exercise extreme caution when approaching intersections in your vehicle. Some lights are still not working. In some cases, they may be working for one road.

Treat all intersections as a four-way stop.

## GENERATOR SAFETY

- Never operate a home generator indoors!
- Close all windows near your generator.
- Do not exceed the recommended wattage listed on the generator.
- Do not connect the generator directly to your home's circuit breakers.
- If possible, purchase a carbon monoxide (CO) detector to monitor CO levels in your home. Remember: Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless.
- If you feel lightheaded or woozy, seek medical attention.
- Connect appliances to generators with a heavy-gauge extension cord.
- Generators should be cool before you add gas.

## CANDLES

- Place all your candles on a stable, non-flammable surface.

## POWER SAWS

- Exercise caution when using power saws. Numerous properties in Town sustained severe tree damage.

## KEY PHONE NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY

**911**

### NON-EMERGENCY [BSO]

**954-765-4321**

### TOWN HALL

**954-776-0576**

### BSO BUSINESS OFFICE

**954-491-3920**

### SHIFT COMMANDER CELL

**954-275-9939**

### BSO FIRE & RESCUE BUSINESS OFFICE

**954-831-8200**

### BUILDING / CODE COMPLIANCE

**954-776-3611**

### MUNICIPAL SERVICES

**954-776-5119**

### FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

**1-800-621-3362**

### OPERATION BLUE ROOF

**1-888-766-3258**

### FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

**1-800-468-8243**

### BROWARD COUNTY HOTLINE

**954-831-4000**

### BROWARD COUNTY TRANSIT

**954-357-8400**

### AMERICAN RED CROSS

**954-763-9900**

# TIPS ON HIRING CONTRACTORS

**H**omeowners in **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** who are searching for contractors to make repairs to their property from damage caused by **Hurricane Wilma** should take precautions to hire licensed and insured contractors. This also applies to homeowners who may want to hire a contractor to clean-up their yard.

Following a disaster, the demand for qualified local contractors usually exceeds the supply, opening the door for unlicensed contractors or rip-off artists who:

- **May overcharge.**
- **Perform shoddy work.**
- **Skip town without finishing the job.**



Because many legitimate, licensed-home repair companies are booked for months in the wake of a major storm, anxious homeowners eager to repair their property often neglect to take the usual precautions when hiring contractors. As a result, some homeowners fall victim to part-time contractors, including:

— Contractors who may not get the job done

in a reasonable time.

— Contractors from surrounding areas who may be difficult to track down for follow-up.

— Inexperienced contractors who may not do the job well.

— People posing as legitimate contractors who are - all too often - just plain crooks who are seizing the opportunity to make a fast buck at your expense.

To avoid unnecessary hassle and extra expenses and to ensure that home repairs are done correctly and to code, follow these tips:

- Deal only with licensed and insured contractors.
- Verify the track record of any roofer, builder or

contractor. Ask for a list of recent customers and call them.

— Get recommendations from friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, insurance agents or claims adjusters.

— Check with the local consumer protection agency, building officials, and the **Better Business Bureau** to see if complaints have been lodged against any contractor you're considering.

— Don't rush into a contract. Get a written estimate that includes any oral promises the contractor made. But remember to ask if there's a charge for an estimate before allowing anyone into your home.

— Ask for explanations for price variations, and don't automatically choose the lowest bidder.

— Get a copy of the final, signed contract before the job begins.

— Resist dealing with any contractor who asks you to pay for the entire job up-front. A deposit of one-third of the total price is standard procedure.

— Don't pay cash. Pay only by check or credit card — and pay the final amount only after the work is completed to your satisfaction.

— Be skeptical of contractors who encourage you to spend a lot of money on temporary repairs. Make sure there's enough money for permanent repairs.

— Ask a knowledgeable friend, relative or attorney to review a home repair contract before you sign.

— If you get a loan to pay for the work, be cautious about using your home as security. If you don't repay the loan as agreed, you could lose your home. Consider asking an attorney to review the loan documents as well.



If you suspect a repair rip-off, call the **Broward County Consumer Affairs Division** at **954-357-5350**.